

3-4-15

Ms. Nancy Rumrill

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

Drinking Water Protection Section, Mail Code WTR-3-2

75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94105

Re: Draft Class III Underground Injection Control Area Permit

Permit Number R9UIC-AZ3-FY11-1 Florence Copper, Inc.

We have been reading and hearing about this proposed permit for some time now. I am definitely opposed to this type of mining of copper in the Florence Az. Area. Our water supply comes from wells in this same area. Having read about the pro and cons of this issue, I have come up with the conclusion that the Florence Copper Inc. main argument to favor this project is the impact it will provide to the economy of our area, hence the favorable impact to their economy. I have not read any examples of how this method of injecting sulphuric acid or any other chemicals has been proved safe for the future of our ground water.

I do know this: Our local paper, Arizona Republic, has been calling attention to the very great threat to our Phoenix valley area about the reservoirs of water from the Colorado River are at the lowest point in recent memory, without the prospect that those levels will be replenished very soon. If we are to have a water shortage danger in this whole valley, why would anyone take a chance of any kind to foul up what we have in our now safe drinking water sources?

As an aside, my summer home is in Paynesville Minnesota. Our municipal wells have been contaminated by a gas station underground tank leakage. This happened over 25 years ago. The City of Paynesville has had to drill new wells. The benzene that had contaminated our older existing wells is now migrating to our new wells. The only solution that the EPA and our Minnesota environmental agency is to drill sampling wells, at least 50 throughout the city, to monitor the flow of benzene to our new wells. No solutions or actions to remove the contaminated soils and or flows. I only bring this up to illustrate the impossible correction once a hazard has been determined. Why take the chance?

I have visited other copper mining sites in the area, operations that use some kind of acids to leach the copper out of the ore. There is not any living vegetation for miles around those sites. Enough said.

Joe H Voss

FOIA Exemption 6

